

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

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EC Task Force Meeting
WECA Training Facility, San Diego, CA
Minutes
March 7, 2007

Members Present: Anne Quick – Chairperson
Dave Rowan – DAS Chief
Al Tweltridge – Dept. of Education
Luisa Martinez - DAS
Barry Noonan – Community College Chancellor’s Office
Terry Seabury
Lori Levoir
Sherry Yarbrough

Guest Present: Diana Limon
Douglas Sawyer
Carolyn Nutter
Jim Westfall
Dan Whooley
Donna Hintzen - DAS

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Anne Quick.

Roll call and all members present.

Chief, DAS presented and updated electrician certification overall statistics and information when he attended the Electrician West Trade Show in Long Beach, CA. Stats provided were the number of people working legally is 41,500 and there are 23,000 C-10 contractors that do not require certification totaling 64,500 electricians working legally in today. There are 7,000 inactive C-10 contractors. There are 26,000 General Electricians, 2,589 Fire/Life Safety Technicians and 23,000 Residential Electricians.

Enforcement for Trainees registering through DAS needs to be tougher and no more excuses commented DAS Chief.

Chief updated on Spanish Exams that it is tougher in Spanish. Test was taken by a Spanish Instructor who did not pass. Furthermore, the Spanish translation has nothing to do with it being bad translation. It just proves that there is no training given. This also means the more training a contractor gives the more money the contractor has to pay.

Discussion that mid-May 2007, in Bakersfield, test takers will be given a pencil/paper exam both in English/Spanish translation side-by-side. In addition, Chief discussed about the English/Spanish Glossary of Terms that DAS commissioned to be translated terms from the exam and crossed-referenced with the NEC code book into English/Spanish and Spanish/English. This Glossary will

be available on the DAS-ECU website and test centers will have them available as a reference material at the 24 testing sites.

Continuing Education topic brought up that was discussed back in August 2006 Task Force meeting which stated that those approved programs can teach 32 hours based on approved curriculum not outside of it. Chief mentioned that he made a proposal to broaden the wording to allow PG&E to train their own people. There are no specific courses specified. Do not reopen and discuss this here. Bring it up to Rulemaking. If we can try to bring it out to the public then we can wrap this up by Sept/Oct 2007.

Report on Legislature: Chief wrote a report last March, but does not know the outcome yet. Chief suggested to the Task Force group to pressure lobbyists to look into enforcement for certification.

WECA Terry Seabury raised an issue on Residential questions that questions may need to be revisited because the questions may not be pertinent and need to be thrown away. Chief commented that Thomson Prometric had nothing to do with developing the Residential questions. Thomson Prometric are not subject matter experts, but does validate test questions. Subject matter experts (SME) developed and defined what they needed to cover the questions. Jim Westfall explained that questions on “motors,” “connections” and high rises were used to build the criteria, and that SMEs came to a unanimous vote to keep those questions. Comment made was that test results just showed us that Residential test takers do not have any formal training.

Discussion on Step by Step Guide for the Electrician Trainees were reviewed by Chairperson and both guides were requested to be posted on DAS website as an information guide for people who have no knowledge on what to do to, where to go and how to do become an Electrician Trainee.

Clarification on Trainee hours due to confusion as to whether it should be 720 hours or 750 hours and Chief stated that in order to show progress it has to be at least 720 hours. Trainees have to have the hours before they can take the test. Recommended 150 hours per year is stated on Regulations. In order to show progress though, Trainees must have 150 hours per year. Downside is that trainees can remain trainees forever. However, apprenticeship program schools vary from 720 hours to 1,100 hours. The August 31, 2006 Task Force minutes referred to stated 150 hours to show progress. Long Beach Community College is an example that trainees finished schooling, but need 8,000 hours of OJT. Trainees now need the training and where do they go?

Discussion on Hold Cards for Apprentices on their last year of training and taking certification exam and Trainees who have completed 720 hours of class work. Issue whether Trainees can or cannot take the exam. Regulations 291.2(g) states they can, but committee wanted to overrule that Trainee cannot take the exam without completion of OJT hours. Set for further discussion for next meeting.

Enforcement for falsifying information, Regs 293.0 Chief can deny, suspend or revoke certification. A letter will be sent to anyone by DAS who falsifies information for action.

Distance learning process and discussion, (i.e., Fort Bragg). On-line training is an option for those that live far from an approved school. WECA has online training for Electrician Trainees courses which are 1-3 hours training courses and no more than 2 online courses can be taken in 6 months. WECA has Distance learning on the crosswalk, but not on the website. To be discussed further on next meeting about distance learning process and delivery. Questions: If you want to do online

what do you do to approve online process? Who do we go to if programs want to offer online services?

The next scheduled meeting was set for May 2, 2007 after the ECCC meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Burlingame, CA.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Luisa Martinez
Staff Aide